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THE U.S. INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY

There has been increasing Congressional concern over the secrecy and relative lack of legislative surveillance of the CIA and other intelligence bodies. But proposals for a "Joint Committee on Foreign Information and Intelligence" have powerful opposition both in Congress and in the Administration.

This story reviews U.S. intelligence activities, listing the various agencies involved, and presents the arguments for and against a "watchdog" committee over the intelligence community. Excerpts from recent House debate on the subject are also presented to give a clearer picture of the attitudes in Congress, pro and con.

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About 650 words

## U.S. INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY

### CONCERNS MANY CONGRESSMEN

By Congressional Quarterly

Washington, Nov. -- (CQ) -- The Nov. 1-2 coup in Viet Nam which deposed the regime of President Ngo Dinh Diem after nine years' rule resulted in part at least from the U.S. Government's dissatisfaction with the Diem regime and its encouragement of reform in Viet Nam.

The event focused attention on the possibility of more direct American intervention to effect the coup. Concern inevitably centered on the role of the Central Intelligence Agency.

The CIA is the fact and symbol of a postwar development in the nation which runs contrary to U.S. traditions of open diplomacy and non-intervention -- the practice of espionage and subversion to further national aims and protect national security. Actually, while the CIA has its spies and agents, much of its work of intelligence involves routine gathering and analysis of statistical, political and other data.

Criticism of CIA and other intelligence operations in the Government stems from revulsion against the cloak-and-dagger image, as well as annoyance at the intense secrecy which surrounds the intelligence community. Some fear the tradition of popular control of the Government, especially the military, may be undermined by the growth of para-military organs insulated from the public.

In addition, the very term "intelligence," while it attracts eager and able college graduates, implies mental faculties in the participants which critics say are not necessarily present.

### Billion-Dollar Operation

Congress is particularly wary of the secrecy which covers the estimated \$1 billion-a-year operations of the CIA and other intelligence agencies in the Government.

Indeed, Congress, jealous of its role as keeper of the purse strings, rankles at not even knowing how much and where the money goes for intelligence operations. Furthermore, the Congressional role of "oversight" is frustrated when it comes to supervision of the far-flung CIA operations, which involve probably between 15,000 and 20,000 employees in the U.S. and abroad.

Thus, every year for the last ten, proposals have been made in Congress for some form of "Joint Committee on Foreign Intelligence" to give Congressional sur-

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veillance over the intelligence community in much the same manner as the Joint Atomic Energy Committee surveys the Atomic Energy Commission's activities and other nuclear affairs.

### Powerful Opposition

The idea of a Joint Committee on Foreign Intelligence has little chance of fulfillment in the near future, mainly because of the powerful forces of opposition to it. These forces are led by the President and his Administration, including the CIA.

But in Congress itself, the three committees which presently handle CIA matters or money -- the six-member Senate subcommittee made up of members of the Armed Services and Appropriations Committees, the ten-member House Armed Services Central Intelligence Agency Subcommittee and the House Appropriations Subcommittee on funds for intelligence activities (which itself is secret as to number and identity of members) -- hasten to object to any new committee poaching on their territory.

Members of these subcommittees claim that they already provide the necessary Congressional surveillance of the intelligence community and that a joint committee for that purpose is unnecessary.

### Watchdog Proposals

But one of the Members who favors a watchdog committee (4 Senators and 19 Representatives have introduced such proposals this year), Rep. John V. Lindsay (R N.Y.) sums up the arguments for it:

- The present Congressional committees are too small and their examination of intelligence matters too "cursory."
- They do not have adequately trained staff.
- Intelligence activities are not an exclusively executive function and should be continuously surveyed by Congress.
- No Government activity, no matter how sensitive, should be totally secret and hidden from Congressional review.
- Blunders made by the CIA should be investigated.
- Any CIA interference with State Department objectives should be watched.
- "Special operations," such as fomenting unrest in a hostile country, toppling foreign governments, etc., ought to be watched, and their compatibility with intelligence-gathering activities examined.
- Selection and training of CIA personnel needs Congressional examination.
- Evaluation of intelligence data should not be dominated by the CIA, which gathers the data.

( M O R E )

Far-Flung Community

When Congress refers to the "intelligence community," it does not mean only the CIA. Here are the principal Government agencies which deal with U.S. intelligence matters:

National Security Council -- Top government officials, including the Director of CIA, who make policy.

Central Intelligence Agency -- Principal intelligence-gathering and operational agency.

U.S. Intelligence Board -- An information exchange body made up of the directors of the other agencies; chairman: Director of CIA.

Board of National Estimates -- A small group of experts in CIA who prepare intelligence estimates from other groups for submission to USIB.

President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board -- A citizens group to provide a continuing review of U.S. intelligence activities.

Defense Intelligence Agency -- Coordinates military intelligence. Formed in 1961, DIA is considered a potential rival to CIA.

National Security Agency -- An agent of the Defense Department. It concentrates principally on codes and ciphers.

Atomic Energy Commission, State Department, Federal Bureau of Investigations -- Each has its own intelligence activities and its member on the USIB.

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